REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 12-23 are currently pending.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the certified priority document.

Specification

Applicants have provided a new Abstract of the Disclosure as required.

35 U.S.C. §112

New claims 12-23 have been drafted to avoid the 35 USC § 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 7-9 set forth in the Office Action.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Furuhashi et al; claims 8-9 stand rejected

under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Guthrie; and claims 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Guthrie as applied to claim 9 in view of Garber et al. Each of these claims has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 12-23 are asserted to be patentable over these references for the following reasons.

Claims 12-23 are are directed to an embodiment of the invention set forth on page 27, line 22, to page 29, line 16 and page 38, line 12, to page 39, 17 of the specification. See also Figs. 26, 27 and 34 to 37. According to the present invention, for example, as set forth in claims 12 and 18, an interrogator reads a first information and a digital signature printed on the surface of a certificate and receives a second information stored in an electronic tag with an antenna part of the interrogator and sends the first and second information to a computer system connected to the interrogator through a leased circuit, public circuit, or through the Internet. The computer system then calculates a third information from the first information and the digital signature using RSA and certifies the certificate by comparing the second information with the third information. In this manner, authenticity of

the certificate can be determined and the possibility of forgery of the certificate is reduced.

Furuhashi is relied upon for disclosing an electronic bank book and processing system for financial transaction information using the electronic bank book. An IC chip 11 is used for certifying the right of obtaining a service from a facility. In particular, the IC chip 11 is formed on the surface of a resin card substrate 1 along with an optical recording sheet 13, a magnetic stripe 14 and an embossment 12. In a semiconductor memory within the IC chip are written validation keys, search keys, payee information and the upper limit amount of a check. A program for processing transaction data is also written in the memory and access restrictions corresponding to various applications are imposed on this data. Further, the history of various cash transactions is recorded in the optical recording sheet. However, the reference does not disclose the claimed combination of the invention which includes calculating third information from first information and a digital signature printed on the surface of the certificate using RSA and comparing the third information with second information stored in an electronic

tag to certify the certificate by comparing the second information with the third information. Therefore, the claims are patentable over Furuhashi.

Guthrie is relied upon for disclosing an electronic inventory system for stacked containers including an interrogator and a communication processing unit. An interrogation signal is sequentially transmitted from a master electronic tag 42 among the electronic tags provided in each container and each container has a long range antenna 43 and a short range antenna 47. The signal is transmitted to a neighboring slave electronic tag 44. Each electronic tag is provided with an index number which provides information about how far each electronic tag is from the master electronic tag. Guthrie does not disclose the combination of the invention set forth in claims 12-23 and therefore each of these claims is patentable over the reference.

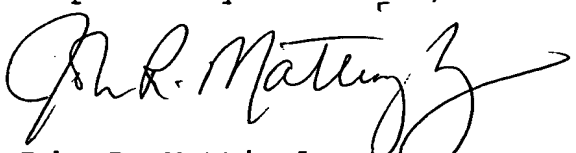
Garber has been cited in the Office Action for disclosing a soundness-determination processing unit that makes a comparison between information in an IC chip and print information read by a scanner to determine the soundness of a certificate. Specifically, based on information read from an

RFID device attached to a library item, a magnetic security element attached to the item is resensitized or desensitized. By comparing the number of material items detected by the RFID reader with the number of material items detected by another optical detector, the magnetic security element is not deactivated without the item being charged out to a specific patron. Further, an optical bar-code scanner may be employed. Accordingly, Garber is insufficient to disclose or suggest the invention as claimed in new claims 14-23.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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